

**189—17.14(533) Permissible investments.**

**17.14(1) *Variable rate investment.*** A credit union may invest in a variable rate investment, as long as the index is tied to domestic interest rates and not, for example, to foreign currencies, foreign interest rates, domestic or foreign commodity prices, equity prices, or inflation rates. For purposes of this subrule, the U.S. dollar-denominated London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) is a domestic interest rate.

**17.14(2) *Corporate credit union shares or deposits.*** A credit union may purchase shares or deposits in a corporate credit union, except when the superintendent or the NCUA has notified it that the corporate credit union is not operating in compliance with NCUA rules and regulations, 12 CFR Part 704. A credit union's aggregate amount of paid-in capital and membership capital, as defined in NCUA rules and regulations, 12 CFR Part 704, in one corporate credit union is limited to 2 percent of its assets measured at the time of investment or adjustment. A credit union's aggregate amount of paid-in capital and membership capital in all corporate credit unions is limited to 4 percent of its assets measured at the time of investment or adjustment.

**17.14(3) *Registered investment company.*** A credit union may invest in a registered investment company or collective investment fund, as long as the prospectus of the company or fund restricts the investment portfolio to investments and investment transactions that are permissible for federal credit unions.

**17.14(4) *Collateralized mortgage obligation/real estate mortgage investment conduit.*** A credit union may invest in a fixed or variable rate collateralized mortgage obligation/real estate mortgage investment conduit.

**17.14(5) *Municipal security.*** A credit union may purchase and hold a municipal security, as defined in the Federal Credit Union Act, 12 U.S.C. Section 1757(7)(K), only if a nationally recognized statistical rating organization has rated it in one of the four highest rating categories.

**17.14(6) *Instruments issued by institutions described in the Federal Credit Union Act, 12 U.S.C. Section 1757(8).*** A credit union may invest in the following instruments issued by an institution described in Section 1757(8) of the Federal Credit Union Act:

- a. Yankee dollar deposits;
- b. Eurodollar deposits;
- c. Banker's acceptances;
- d. Deposit notes; and
- e. Bank notes with original weighted average maturities of less than 5 years.

**17.14(7) *European financial options contract.*** A credit union may purchase a European financial options contract or a series of European financial options contracts only to fund the payment of dividends on member share certificates or interest on member certificates of deposit when such dividend or interest rate is tied to an equity index provided:

- a. The option and dividend/interest rate are based on a domestic equity index;
- b. Proceeds from the options are used only to fund dividends/interest on the equity-linked certificates;
- c. Dividends or interest, or both, on the certificates are derived solely from the change in the domestic equity index over a specified period;
- d. The options' expiration dates are no later than the maturity date of the certificate;
- e. The certificate may be redeemed prior to the maturity date only upon the member's death or termination of the corresponding option;
- f. The total costs associated with the purchase of the option is known by the credit union prior to effecting the transaction;
- g. The options are purchased at the same time the certificate is issued to the member;
- h. The counterparty to the transaction is a domestic counterparty and has been approved by the credit union's board of directors;
- i. The counterparty to the transaction:

(1) Has a long-term, senior, unsecured debt rating from a nationally recognized statistical rating organization of AA- (or equivalent) or better at the time of the transaction, and the contract between the counterparty and the credit union specifies that if the long-term, senior, unsecured debt rating declines

below AA- (or equivalent) then the counterparty agrees to post collateral with an independent party in an amount fully securing the value of the option; or

(2) Posts collateral with an independent party in an amount fully securing the value of the option if the counterparty does not have a long-term, senior, unsecured debt rating from a nationally recognized statistical rating organization;

*j.* Any collateral posted by the counterparty is a permissible investment for federal credit unions and is valued daily by an independent third party along with the value of the option;

*k.* The aggregate amount of equity-linked member certificates does not exceed the credit union's net worth;

*l.* The terms of the certificate include a guarantee that there can be no loss of principal to the member regardless of changes in the value of the option unless the certificate is redeemed prior to maturity; and

*m.* The credit union provides its board of directors with a monthly report detailing, at a minimum:

(1) The dollar amount of outstanding equity-linked certificates;

(2) The certificates' maturities; and

(3) The fair value of the options as determined by an independent third party.

**17.14(8) Debt obligations of U.S.-chartered corporations.** An Iowa state-chartered credit union may invest in unsecured notes and acceptances, commonly referred to as "commercial paper" and "corporate bonds," of U.S.-chartered corporations pursuant to Iowa Code section 533.301(5) "h" and "i" and this rule, only if:

*a.* The investment in a corporate bond debt obligation is rated in one of the two highest rating categories by a nationally recognized statistical rating organization and has a maturity of less than five years;

*b.* The investment in a commercial paper debt obligation is rated in one of the four highest rating categories by a nationally recognized statistical rating organization and has a maturity of less than one year;

*c.* An investment in a nonrated equivalent value issue of a commercial paper debt obligation shall otherwise adhere to the limitations of rated issues. In lieu of the required rating by a nationally recognized statistical rating organization, a credit union shall retain documentation supporting the method used in determining the equivalent rating and the current and previous two years of year-end financial statements which indicate acceptable operating performance of the issuing U.S. corporation;

*d.* Subsequent to the date of purchase but prior to the date of maturity, the rating is downgraded two or more categories by the same nationally recognized statistical rating organization used when the investment was purchased, and the investment exceeds the credit union's net worth by 5 percent or more, the credit union shall have no more than 30 days to divest of the security unless the credit union seeks and receives a waiver from the superintendent as provided by rule;

*e.* The total investment by a credit union in debt obligations in a lone U.S. corporation and its subsidiaries shall not exceed 25 percent of the credit union's net worth;

*f.* The total aggregate investment by a credit union in debt obligations of U.S. corporations and their subsidiaries shall not exceed the lesser of 100 percent of the credit union's net worth or 20 percent of the credit union's investment portfolio;

*g.* An investment will be considered speculative and unauthorized if it contains any of the following characteristics, and the credit union shall be required to divest of the security in accordance with 17.14(8) "d" without an opportunity of waiver:

(1) It is issued by a business entity not recognized in the market place or by other than a U.S.-chartered corporation, or by both;

(2) It has a maturity that exceeds that established in this subrule; or

(3) It is issued to cover or underwrite foreign market operations, or for new-line products or services, or both, which exceed 25 percent of the investment offering;

*h.* If the net worth level of a credit union falls or remains below an amount which causes the limitations of this subrule to be exceeded for two consecutive quarters, and the amount of difference is 5 percent or more of the net worth, the credit union shall divest of a sufficient amount of debt obligations so

the credit union no longer exceeds the limitations or seek a waiver from the superintendent as provided by rule;

*i.* A corporate credit union chartered in accordance with Iowa Code chapter 533 is exempt from the provisions and limitations of this subrule and, instead, shall have the powers, restrictions and obligations contained in NCUA rules and regulations, 12 CFR Part 704, for federally insured corporate credit unions.